

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, September 14. 1708.

WHile we are barren of News, and the Post stays any longer than usual, then we are always supplying a labouring Fancy with wise Novelties of our own— And what should this be now, but that if *Lisle* be taken, the *French King* will make such Proposals of Peace, as the Confederates cannot refuse; nor is this general Head sufficient, but they descend to Particulars, and tell us the Scheme; whether it be of their own Brain or no, I will not determine; but the Proposal they make for him, is as follows— If it be true, Time will discover— But one of our Prints told us, that Expresses were sent to *Madrid* with the Scheme, and to prepare the Court of *Madrid* to receive the Offer, and comply with the Terms.

The Project of Peace said to be proposed as Preliminaries to a Treaty.

1. That *France* shall quit to *Charles III.* all *Spain*, with all the Dominions that belong to it in *Africa* or *America*, with the *Isles* of the *Canaries*, &c. and shall cause *Philip V.* to relinquish all his Claim or Pretence to the Title, Arms, or Possession of the same.
2. That *France* shall immediately deliver up the *Spanish Netherlands* entirely to King *Charles III.* with all its Fortifications as they are now standing, reserving only what was left in Possession of *France* by the Treaty of *Nimègue*.
3. That the Dominions of the D. of *Lorraine* shall be left free, and the Bishoprick of *Metz*, *Toul* and *Verdun* restor'd him.
4. That

4. That *Rhine* shall be the Bounds between *France* and the Empire on the side of *Alsatia*, and *France* shall deliver *Brisack* and Fort of *Khiel* in the Condition they are now in.
5. That the Fort of *Hunningben*, Fort *Louis* on the *Rhine*, *Saar*, *Louis*, *Metz* and *Dunkirk* shall be demolish'd and laid open, never to be fortified again by the *French*.
6. That all that has been takem from the D. of *Savoy* shall be restor'd to him, and a Consideration be given him for demolishing the Towns and Fortifications of *Montmelian*, *Ivrea*, *Vercelli* and *Veru*.
7. That in Consideration of *Philip V.* relinquishing *Spain*, Old and New, as above, King *Charles III.* shall relinquish to him the Kingdoms of *Naples* and *Sicily*, the Islands of *Sardinia* and *Corfica*, and the rest of the Dominions belonging to the *Spanish* Monarchy in *Italy*.
8. That the Dutchies of *Milbain* shall be sequestred to the Duke of *Savoy* for 7 Years, and the Revenues given to the said Duke, in Consideration of his Losses by the War.

Review. Come hither, my mad Man, what say you to this Project of Peace? I hope, you are a Man of Peace, every honest Man is for Peace.

Mad Man. After you, Sir, I shall give my Opinion; but pray, what think you of it?

Rev. Truly I like it pretty well, I would make a few Additions to it, and let it go; for I own, I long for an End of the War.

M. Well, let us hear your Additions then.

Rev. Why, I would be generous to the poor Duke of *Savoy*, I would give him the Dutchies of *Millain* and *Mantua*, and the Title of King of *Lombardy*, and by that Means he would be always in a Condition to prevent any Communication by Land between the *French*, and the Kingdoms of *Naples* and *Scicily*.

M. And then it will please you well enough, will it not?

Rev. Indifferent well.

M. Indeed it does not pleasure me at all.

Rev. But what are your Objections? —

M. Truly the same that a late famous Member of our College with a hard hanging Name, I think they call'd him Monsieur *FACHOW*, made against the same Thing, viz. that it was a *felonious Treaty*.

Rev. Who was this, and when, and what did he mean?

M. Where did you live, that you should not hear of Monsieur *FACHOW* a *French* Man I suppose, or in *French* Interest, for it was always his Delight to be abusing the Glorious King *William*, and this Word *Felonious* was coined to that Affair, as a particular Affront upon the King.

Rev. And was the King alive then?

M. His Person was alive, but his Authority was trampled on, and the Remembrance of what he had done for us, smother'd under the *Mire* and *Dirt*, these Sort of Creatures cast up out of the troubled Sea of their factious and furious Tempers.

Rev. But there was so much Nonsense as well as Gall in it, that he ought to have been punish'd two Ways; first for the Inconsistency, and next for the Malice of it.

M. Why, where was the Inconsistency?

Rev. In that he pointed the Word at the King, and then call'd it Felony; whereas we do not find by our Law, that a King can be guilty of Felony —

M. I am not of the Opinion, that Persons alter Crimes; but the Villany of the Man lay in insulting the King, who was the Nations Benefactor, and made their Safety his Study, their Advantage his Care, and their Prosperity his greatest Satisfaction — But as for the Treaty of Partition — it was —

Rev. What was it? —

M. Why it was damn'd and condemn'd by —

Rev. By who pray?

M. By the best Parliament of all that Reign —

Rev. How do you prove them the best Parliament, pray?

M. Plainly enough, because they were all of my own Class, all my Acquaintance, all.

all Members of our College, and we condemn'd it and curs'd it without Bell, Book, or Candle. It was universally run down in our House and their House at the same Time.

Rev. And no where else as ever I know; you give an excellent Reason to prove them the best Parliament of that time, viz. their being all mad Men; Mad Men of all Kinds did run it down, Lunatics indeed, *whether in Bedlam or in Parliament*, did run it down; but wiser Men, who saw with the same Eyes that King William saw with, who knew the Power of France, and knew how to weigh Things in a true Balance, foresaw, that it was the most advantageous Offer that was ever made to Europe, and that after 7 Years War it would be thought very happy to Europe to bring France to the same Condition.

M. Well, but I do not like it now, because I think we have brought France to a

Condition to give better Terms— I have one Thing to capitulate for, with the Reader of this Paper, that being wrote at a Distance from London, and when all the World was looking for a terrible Battle in Flanders— We yet say, before the Event of that Action is known, that even then the French are in a Condition fit for us to demand better Terms than the Division above.

Rev. And I, tho' still in the same Expectation of a terrible Battle in Flanders, say, That tho' that Battle were fought, as perhaps it may be before the printing this Paper—Tho' you should fight, overthrow the French, rout their whole Army, which is a very great one; tho' you take Lisle, and are entering France, yet a Peace upon Terms as advantageous as that of the Partition, with some few additional Advantages, would be the best Thing we can do.

MISCELLANEA.

IN our former *Miscellanea*, I gave you an Account of the setting at Liberty again the *Jacobite* Clergy that were imprison'd in Scotland, for refusing to take the Oaths, and yet presuming to set up Meeting-Houses, at the same time refusing to pray for the Queen—I have endeavour'd to set that Case in a true Light, and to distinguish between what some People would fain call Persecution for Religion, and what we call suppressing an Interest dangerous to the Government, and which has no Coherence with the Affair of Conscience or Religion, as it now stands among us.

And first I desire to say a Word or two to the People, who are so fond of calling this Persecution, and to their Ends and Design in it; and to the latter first.

The End and Design is, if they could, to prove, the *Dissenters* in England are of a persecuting Spirit, and that if they had the Church in their Power, they would make use of Coercives as well as any Body— And to prove this, they bring the Church of Scotland upon the Stage, who being, say

they, of the same Kind with the *Dissenters* in England, speaking of their Religious Capacities, are now persecuting the poor *Episcopal* Clergy in Scotland—Now the Matter of Fact being false, that the *Episcopal* Clergy in Scotland are at all persecuted, the Argument must be overthrown of course; for the Assumption being destroy'd, the Consequence cannot stand.

But now as to the People that thus charge the *Dissenters*, who are they? It is plain, they are the hot Men of the Church of England, such as they call among us *High-Flyers*.

Of these, I say, they are not the proper Persons to make this Complaint, or in English, they should be the last to censure, since they themselves are guilty of the same thing, with this Distinction, that they are guilty of it as a Church, the others not.

Either these Gentlemen are of the Church, or they are not; *Dissenters* they cannot be, if they were, they would not come into the Complaint; *Jacobites* they cannot be without horrid Impiety, for they have